

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 144989

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, CG

SUBJECT: U.S. MEDIA COVERAGE OF PARIS MEETING

EXCERPTS FOLLOW FROM ARTICLE ENTITLED "SHORT-TERM ACTION  
TO HELP ZAIRE IS SET" BY FLORA LEWIS IN JUNE 7 ISSUE OF  
THE NEW YORK TIMES. QTE:  
SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOUR  
ALLIED COUNTRIES AGREED YESTERDAY ON SHORT-TERM MILITARY  
AND ECONOMIC ACTION AIMED AT KEEPING ZAIRE FROM COLLAPSE,  
PARTICIPATING DIPLOMATS SAID TODAY.  
MEMBERS OF SEVERAL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION  
WITH WHAT HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN A SERIES OF COMPROMISES,  
BUT THE FIVE COUNTRIES INVOLVED -- BRITAIN, WEST GERMANY,  
BELGIUM AND FRANCE AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES -- DIS-  
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AGREED ON HOW TO DEAL WITH LONGER-TERM THREATS OF SOVIET  
PENETRATION IN AFRICA.  
LONG-TERM EFFORTS TO SHORE UP THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT  
OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO ARE TO BE TAKEN UP NEXT WEEK  
AT A LARGER MEETING IN BRUSSELS, WHERE REPRESENTATIVES OF  
ZAIRE, IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY  
FUND ARE ALSO TO TAKE PART.

SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MILITARY OFFICIALS FROM THE  
FIVE COUNTRIES ATTENDED THE HASTILY ARRANGED ONE-DAY

SESSION HERE. IT WENT ON UNTIL WELL AFTER MIDNIGHT,  
ENDING WITH A COMMUNIQUE SAYING THE PARTICIPANTS HAD AGREED  
ON CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS, BUT  
THESE WERE NOT DEFINED.

DIPLOMATS SAID THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS DEALT WITH  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR FLYING, EQUIPPING AND PAYING FOR THE FORCE  
OF MOROCCAN AND OTHER AFRICAN TROOPS THAT AMERICAN PLANES  
HAVE STARTED FLYING TO ZAIRE'S SOUTHERN SHABA PROVINCE TO  
HELP PREVENT FURTHER ATTACKS LIKE THE INVASION LAST MONTH  
BY INSURGENTS BASED IN NEIGHBORING ANGOLA. ALSO INVOLVED  
WAS EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID.

BUT SPECIFIC DETAILS ON WHO IS PAYING FOR WHAT AND HOW  
MUCH WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

EQUIPMENT, SUPPORT AND PAY FOR THE OTHERS WERE PROBLEMS  
NOT YET FULLY RESOLVED, HOWEVER. INITIALLY, FRANCE,  
BELGIUM AND WEST GERMANY WERE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE FOR THEM.  
BUT DIPLOMATS SAID THEY COULD NOT EVEN ESTIMATE A FIGURE  
FOR THE OVERALL COST OF WHAT WOULD BE DONE AFTER THE FIRST  
PERIOD. AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID THAT NO TIME LIMIT HAD  
BEEN SET ON MAINTENANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORCE.  
ITS BASIC MISSION, THE DELEGATES AGREED WAS FIRST  
OF ALL TO RESTORE ENOUGH CONFIDENCE AMONG FRIGHTENED  
EUROPEANS IN SHABA SO THAT THEY WOULD REMAIN AT THEIR VITAL  
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POSTS IN THE PROVINCE'S MINING OPERATIONS. SINCE NO ONE  
CAN BE SURE WHETHER THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCE WILL ACHIEVE  
THIS ON ITS OWN, THE FRENCH AGREED TO LEAVE SOME OF THEIR  
PARATROOPERS IN THE AREA INDEFINITELY ALTHOUGH THE  
OTHERS WERE REPATRIATED TO CORSICA BY THE UNITED STATES  
AIR FORCE THIS WEEK.

THE FORCE'S SECOND MISSION WAS TO RESTORE SELF-CONFI-  
DENCE, AND THEREFORE DISCIPLINE, AMONG ZAIRE'S TROOPS  
IN THE HOPES THAT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO KEEP  
ORDER WITHOUT OUTSIDE MILITARY HELP.

EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS SAID THE UNITED STATES HAD AGREED  
TO HELP SO FAR AS IT COULD WITHOUT REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL  
ACTION. THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL, WHO REQUESTED ANONYMITY,  
STRESSED THE UNWILLINGNESS OF CONGRESS AND UNITED STATES  
PUBLIC OPINION TO ACCEPT ANY AMERICAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT.  
ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, THE DELEGATES DISCUSSED URGENT  
NEEDS OF FOOD, FUEL AND SPARE PARTS TO KEEP ZAIRE GOING  
FOR THREE TO SIX MONTHS, AND ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD  
REQUIRE AN IMMEDIATE INFUSION OF ABOUT \$50 MILLION. THE  
COUNTRY'S OUTSTANDING DEBT WAS REPORTED TO BE \$3 BILLION.  
WITH DEBT RESCHEDULING AND LONG-TERM AID TO BE TAKEN  
UP AT THE BRUSSELS MEETING NEXT WEEK, THEY SAID THE FIVE

COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT SOME "POLITICAL CONTENT" IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM.

WHILE MOST OF THE DIPLOMATS SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN THIS IN TACTFUL TERMS, SOME SAID FLATLY THAT IT MEANT ACCEPTANCE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS AND ADVISERS WHO WOULD, IN EFFECT, OVERSEE THE COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATION. ONE SAID THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS HAD AGREED THAT MR. MOBUTU HAD TO BE GIVEN ONE MORE CHANCE BECAUSE THERE SIMPLY WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO HIM AS PRESIDENT, BUT ALSO THAT HE WOULD BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS HIS LAST CHANCE AND THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT SUPERVISION.

FRANCE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE MEETING, ITS REPRESENTA-  
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TIVES SAID. THEY EXPLAINED THAT PART OF THE REASON WAS THAT OTHERS INVOLVED HAD COME AROUND TO THE PARIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU MUST BE SUPPORTED ONCE AGAIN. VANCE

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